

What is claimed is:

1. A computer-implemented graphical user interface method, comprising:
  - providing a toolbar graphically representing tools including one or more groups of tools, wherein a tool is represented by an icon and wherein a group of tools is represented by one or more icons, the toolbar including a first icon representing a first group of tools; and
    - in response to a first user input, generating an expanded toolbar by expanding the toolbar to replace the first icon with a plurality of icons representing tools in the first group of tools.
- 10 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the first icon represents both the first group of tools and a first tool in the first group of tools.
3. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
  - prior to generating an expanded toolbar, in response to a second user input selecting the first icon, displaying a secondary list including one or more icons representing the tools in the first group of tools.
- 15 4. The method of claim 3, further comprising:
  - removing the secondary list in response to the first user input.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the toolbar includes other icons and wherein generating an expanded toolbar to replace the first icon with a plurality of icons representing tools in the first group of tools comprises:
  - removing the first icon from a position on the toolbar relative to the other icons included in the toolbar and including the plurality of icons in the same position on the toolbar relative to the other icons included in the toolbar.
- 20 6. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
  - in response to a third user input, contracting the expanded toolbar to generate a contracted toolbar, the contracted toolbar including one or more icons, but less than the

plurality of icons, representing one or more tools in the first group of tools and representing the first group of tools.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein:

the contracted toolbar includes only one icon representing both the first group of tools and a tool in the first group of tools.

5       8. The method of claim 6, wherein:

the contracted toolbar includes a single icon representing only the first group of tools.

10      9. The method of claim 6, wherein:

expanding the toolbar includes inserting a hide icon in the expanded toolbar; and

10      the third user input includes electronic data representing an activation of the hide icon.

10      10. The method of claim 1, wherein:

the expanded toolbar includes one or more graphical elements distinguishing the icons representing tools in the first group of tools from other icons on the toolbar.

15      11. The method of claim 10, wherein:

the one or more graphical elements include separator lines located before and after the icons representing tools in the first group of tools on the toolbar.

12. The method of claim 10, wherein:

20      the one or more graphical elements include a contrasting color in which the icons representing tools in the first group of tools are displayed on the toolbar.

13. The method of claim 10, wherein:

the one or more graphical elements include a border surrounding the icons representing tools in the first group of tools on the toolbar.

14. The method of claim 10, wherein:

25      the one or more graphical elements includes a label identifying the first group of tools.

15. A computer-implemented graphical user interface method, comprising:

providing a toolbar graphically representing tools including one or more groups of tool, wherein a tool is represented by an icon and wherein a group of tools is represented by one or more icons, the toolbar including a plurality of icons representing a plurality of tools in a first group of tools; and

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in response to a user input, generating a contracted toolbar by contracting the toolbar to replace the plurality of icons with one or more icons, but less than the plurality of icons, representing one or more tools in the first group of tools and representing the first group of tools.

10 16. The method of claim 15, wherein:

the contracted toolbar includes only one icon representing both a tool in the first group of tools and the first group of tools.

17. The method of claim 15, wherein:

the contracted toolbar includes a single icon representing only the first group of tools.

15 18. The method of claim 15, wherein:

the contracted toolbar includes a hide icon; and

the user input includes electronic data representing an activation of the hide icon.

19. A computer-implemented graphical user interface method, comprising:

providing a toolbar graphically representing tools including one or more groups of tools, wherein a tool is represented by an icon and wherein a group of tools is represented by one or more icons, the toolbar including a first icon representing a first tool in a first group of tools and representing the first group of tools;

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in response to a first user input selecting the first icon, displaying a secondary list including one or more icons representing the tools in the first group of tools;

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in response to a second user input, generating an expanded toolbar by expanding the toolbar to replace the first icon with a plurality of icons representing tools in the first group of tools and removing the secondary list; and

in response to a third user input, contracting the expanded toolbar to generate a contracted toolbar, the contracted toolbar including one or more icons, but less than the

plurality of icons, representing one or more tools in the first group of tools and representing the first group of tools.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein:

expanding the toolbar includes inserting a hide icon in the expanded toolbar; and  
5       the third user input includes electronic data representing an activation of the hide icon.

21. The method of claim 19, wherein:

the expanded toolbar includes one or more graphical elements distinguishing the icons representing tools in the first group of tools from other icons on the toolbar.

10     22. A computer program product, tangibly stored on a machine-readable medium, comprising instructions operable to cause a programmable processor to:

provide a toolbar graphically representing tools including one or more groups of tools, wherein a tool is represented by an icon and wherein a group of tools is represented by one or more icons, the toolbar including a first icon representing a first tool in a first group of tools and representing the first group of tools; and

in response to a first user input, generate an expanded toolbar by expanding the toolbar to replace the first icon with a plurality of icons representing tools in the first group of tools.

20     23. The computer program product of claim 22, wherein the first icon represents both the first group of tools and a first tool in the first group of tools.

24. The computer program product of claim 22, further comprising instructions operable to:

prior to generating an expanded toolbar, in response to a second user input selecting the first icon, display a secondary list including one or more icons representing the tools in the first group of tools.

25     25. The computer program product of claim 24, further comprising instructions operable to:  
remove the secondary list in response to the first user input.

26. The computer program product of claim 22, wherein the toolbar includes other icons and wherein instructions operable to generate an expanded toolbar to replace the first icon with a plurality of icons representing tools in the first group of tools comprise instructions operable to:
- 5       remove the first icon from a position on the toolbar relative to the other icons included in the toolbar and include the plurality of icons in the same position on the toolbar relative to the other icons included in the toolbar.
27. The computer program product of claim 22, further comprising instructions operable to:
- 10      in response to a third user input, contract the expanded toolbar to generate a contracted toolbar, the contracted toolbar including one or more icons, but less than the plurality of icons, representing one or more tools in the first group of tools and representing the first group of tools.
28. The computer program product of claim 27, wherein:
- 15      the contracted toolbar includes only one icon representing both the first group of tools and a tool in the first group of tools.
29. The computer program product of claim 27, wherein:
- 1      the contracted toolbar includes a single icon representing only the first group of tools.
30. The computer program product of claim 27, wherein:
- 20      instructions operable to expand the toolbar include instructions operable to insert a hide icon in the expanded toolbar; and
- 1      the third user input includes electronic data representing an activation of the hide icon.
31. The computer program product of claim 22, wherein:
- 25      the expanded toolbar includes one or more graphical elements distinguishing the icons representing tools in the first group of tools from other icons on the toolbar.

32. The computer program product of claim 31, wherein:

the one or more graphical elements include separator lines located before and after the icons representing tools in the first group of tools on the toolbar.

33. The computer program product of claim 31, wherein:

5 the one or more graphical elements include a contrasting color in which the icons representing tools in the first group of tools are displayed on the toolbar.

34. The computer program product of claim 31, wherein:

the one or more graphical elements include a border surrounding the icons representing tools in the first group of tools on the toolbar.

10 35. The computer program product of claim 31, wherein:

the one or more graphical elements includes a label identifying the first group of tools.

15 36. A computer program product, tangibly stored on a machine-readable medium, comprising instructions operable to cause a programmable processor to:

provide a toolbar graphically representing tools including one or more groups of tool, wherein a tool is represented by an icon and wherein a group of tools is represented by one or more icons, the toolbar including a plurality of icons representing a plurality of tools in a first group of tools; and

20 in response to a user input, generate a contracted toolbar by contracting the toolbar to replace the plurality of icons with one or more icons, but less than the plurality icons, representing one or more tools in the first group of tools and representing the first group of tools.

25 37. The computer program product of claim 36, wherein:

the contracted toolbar includes only one icon representing both the first group of tools and a tool in the first group of tools.

38. The computer program product of claim 36, wherein:

the contracted toolbar includes a single icon representing only the first group of tools.

39. The computer program product of claim 36, wherein:

- the contracted toolbar includes a hide icon; and
- the user input includes electronic data representing an activation of the hide icon.

40. A computer program product, tangibly stored on a machine-readable medium, comprising  
5 instructions operable to cause a programmable processor to:

provide a toolbar graphically representing tools including one or more groups of tools, wherein a tool is represented by an icon and wherein a group of tools is represented by one or more icons, the toolbar including a first icon representing a first tool in a first group of tools and representing the first group of tools;

10 in response to a first user input selecting the first icon, display a secondary list including one or more icons representing the tools in the first group of tools;

in response to a second user input, generate an expanded toolbar by expanding the toolbar to replace the first icon with a plurality of icons representing tools in the first group of tools and remove the secondary list; and

15 in response to a third user input, contract the expanded toolbar to generate a contracted toolbar, the contracted toolbar including one or more icons, but less than the plurality of icons, representing one or more tools in the first group of tools and representing the first group of tools.

41. The computer program product of claim 40, wherein:

20 instructions operable to expand the toolbar include instructions operable to insert a hide icon in the expanded toolbar; and

the third user input includes electronic data representing an activation of the hide icon.

42. The computer program product of claim 40, wherein:

25 the expanded toolbar includes one or more graphical elements distinguishing the icons representing tools in the first group of tools from other icons on the toolbar.